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The wasp-nest beetle *Metoecus paradoxus* L. (Col.: Rhipiphoridae) in north-east Hampshire

A deceased male specimen of this curious insect was found in a mv moth trap located in my garden at Farnborough, Hampshire (OS grid reference SU 858755) on 30 July this year (1997). It was the second occurrence of this species in the trap, the first one, also a male, was noted on 9 July 1995.

Both specimens arrived on warm, humid nights during periods when many wasps *Vespa vulgaris* L. were active. Twelve wasps were recorded in the trap on 30 July 1997 and three on 9 July 1995 (increasing that summer to fifty a night by 1st August).— R.W. PARFITT, 29 Manor Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7EX.

BOOK REVIEWS

Scythrididae by Bengt Å. Bengtsson in P. Huemer, O. Karsholt and L. Lyneborg (Eds.) *Microlepidoptera of Europe, Volume 2*. 301 pages, 14 colour plates, 419 text figures. 248 x 175 mm, hardbound. ISBN 87 88757 11 0. Apollo Books, Kirkeby Sand 19, DK-5771 Stenstrup, Denmark, 1997. 500 Danish Kroner plus postage (review copy weighs just over 1 Kg without packaging).

This is the second volume in the series *Microlepidoptera of Europe*; the first volume, covering the Pterophoridae, was reviewed during 1996 by Paul Sokoloff in *Ent. Rec.* **108**: 172-174.

The Scythrididae have a world-wide distribution and are even encountered on isolated islands, where they often show special features which differ from the rest of the family. However, with only about a dozen species known from the British Isles one may wonder how this book can be of use to British lepidopterists, given that our species will in any event shortly be covered in volume 4 of *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* from Harley Books. In my own view the answer to this is quite simply that because the family contains so many species which are quite difficult to identify and because a large proportion of them have some association with